

Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board

July Meeting Minutes

Department of Economic and Community Development

July 19, 2016
9:00AM-10:30 AM
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, Connecticut

Attendance

- Board Members: Colin Cooper, Don Balducci, Beverlee Dacey, Chris DiPentima, John Harrity
- Board Members via Phone: Commissioner Catherine Smith, Todd Phil
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders: Elliot Ginsberg, Jennifer Herz, Bernice Zampano, Tracey Ariel, Tom Maloney, Bonnie DelConte, Kathy Marioni, Teresa McCarthy
- DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Barbara Fernandez, Toni Karnes

Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine H. Smith at 9:02 am.

1. **Call to Order:** Commissioner Smith welcomed the board to the meeting and introductions were made.
2. **Approval of May 12, 2016 meeting minutes** – John Harrity moved to accept the May meeting minutes. Don Balducci seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **State Budget Update** – Commissioner Smith gave an overview of the state budget process. She stated that there would be a \$10,000,000 cut to MIF funding. Beverlee Dacy had several questions regarding SB1 and after some discussion, Catherine stated that she would provide the Board with the final version.

Colin Cooper and Chris DiPentima gave a brief overview of the Farnborough Air Show. They noted that it was well attended and they were able to attend a large number of customer meetings. There were lots of tourists even with the recent Brexit vote.

4. **MIF Financial Report** – Commissioner Smith and Barbara Fernandez gave an overview of the MIF Financial Report. They reviewed the funding to companies under the Apprenticeship and Voucher programs. After some discussion, the group requested that there be a column added entitled “Paid to Administrator” to track administration fees.

5. **MIF Marketing Update** – Beverlee Dacey and Todd Pihl provided an update and overview of the Marketing Strategy. They stated that the subcommittee was looking to utilize social media and make an effort to reach out to legislators working with MHMA. Barbara Fernandez advised that DECD Branding staff met with Adams and Knight in order for them to put a presentation together for Beverlee Dacey and Todd Pihl to review. This effort could be used to get the word out to all manufacturers in the state.
6. **IMCP Annual Report** – After some discussion, Carmen Molino-Rios provided an overview of the Annual Report. She stated that EDA would provide the format and the MIF Board would need to identify what metrics will be gathered and how those metrics will be gathered. She noted that there would be 7-5 awards this year.
7. **Pratt Project Proposal on Residual Stress and Advanced Machining** - Eric McCauley of Pratt & Whitney provided an overview of Pratt's proposal for a \$2.9MM project designed to increase CT's manufacturing competitiveness by developing technology and capabilities to predict and manage residual stress during manufacturing processes. The proposal was requesting \$2.5MM from MIF.

The project would be a collaboration between. After some discussion, Danny DiPerna suggested that that UCONN, CCAT, UTRC, GKN, Space-Craft, Jarvis Airfoil, Inc. and Pratt come to a Board meeting so that the Board can understand the process. Commissioner Smith raised some questions regarding the budget. She questioned as to whether the funding would be used for existing people or new people. Eric McCauley pointed out that the largest portion of funds would be for the labor needed for implementing tools. He noted that a specific skill set was necessary.

Further group discussion ensued and Commissioner Smith suggested that the group revisit the proposal after they have formulated additional questions and obtained more information (i.e. Understanding the Fed's role, the break-down of the in-kind contributions, the project roll-out to the rest of the industry and the roll-out to State colleges and universities).

8. **High Rate Additive Manufacturing** – Tom Maloney and Elliot Ginsberg of CCAT provided an overview of the need for High Rate Additive technology. Tom Maloney noted a new technology for the state and it would make CT more productive, create new business as well as create jobs. Todd Pihl noted that the project fit into why the MIF Board was created and it will be a way to draw new business to the state. After some discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion that the Board provide \$600,000 to

CCAT for system design. John Harrity second the motion. Don Balducci abstained. The motion passed.

9. **Other Business** – The Board reviewed the Voucher Program Contract Value vs. the Board approved program amount. The difference was \$375,000 in Administration costs for two rounds of funding. Beverlee Dacey noted that, in the future, she would like the fringe broken out. Commissioner Smith moved that the Board approve \$375,000 to reconcile the difference between the original Board approved amount and the actual value. John Harrity second. The motion passed unanimously.

Beverlee Dacey moved to adjourn the meeting. Colin Cooper second. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.